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"Enlightened minds and virtuous manners lead to the gates of glory."

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Mexican Gulph, and though few and small in the north, numerous and lofty in the south, yet exhibit proofs of a common origin.

I shall begin with the tumuli on the Muskingum, which are not very numerous, nor comparatively interesting, until we descend to Morgan county, where are some on the head waters of Jonathan's Creek, whose basis are formed of well burnt bricks, between four or five inches square.—There were found lying on the bricks charcoal cinders, and pieces of calcined human bones.—Above them, the mound was composed of earth, showing that the dead had been burned in the manner of several eastern nations, and raised afterwards.

Decending the Muskingum to its mouth, we arrive at the celebrated works at Marietta, already noticed, but not fully described. It is with great pleasure, that here I avail myself of a communication from Dr. S. P. Hildreth, of Marietta.

"MARIETTA, JULY 19, 1819.

"In removing the earth which composed an ancient mound in one of the streets of Marietta, on the margin of the plain, near the fortifications, several curious articles were discovered the latter part of June last. They appear to have been buried with the body of the person to whose memory this mound was erected.

"Lying immediately over, or on the forehead of the body, were found three large circular bosses,

or ornaments for a sword belt, or a buckler; they are composed of copper, overlaid with a thick plate of silver. The fronts of them are slightly convex, with a depression like a cup, in the centre, and measure two inches across the face of each. On the back side, opposite the depressed portion, is a copper rivet or nail, around which are two separate plates, by which they were fastened to the leather. Two small pieces of the leather were found lying between the plates of one of the bosses; they resemble the skin of an old mummy, and seem to have been preserved by the salts of the copper. The plates of copper are nearly reduced to an oxide, or rust. The silver looks quite black, but is not much corroded, and on rubbing, it becomes quite brilliant. Two of these are yet entire; the third one is so much wasted, that it dropped in pieces on removing it from the earth. Around the rivet of one of them is a small quantity of flax or hemp, in a tolerable state of preservation. Near the side of the body was found a plate of silver which appears to have been the upper part of a sword scabbard; it is six inches in length and two inches in breadth, and weighs one ounce; it has no ornaments or figures, but has three longitudinal ridges, which probably correspond with edges, or ridges, of the the sword; it seems to have been fastened to the scabbard by three or four rivets, the

holes of which yet remain in the silver.

"Two or three broken pieces of a copper tube, were also found filled with iron rust. These pieces, from their appearance, composed the lower end of the scabbard, near the point of the sword. No sign of the sword itself was discovered, except the appearance of rust above mentioned.

"Near the feet, was found a piece of copper, weighing three ounces. From its shape it appears to have been used as a plumb, or for an ornament, as near one of the ends is a circular crease, or groove, for tying a thread, it is round, two inches and a half in length, one inch in diameter at the centre, and half an inch at each end. It is composed of small pieces of copper, pounded together; and in the cracks between the pieces, are stuck several pieces of silver; one nearly the size of a four penny piece, or half a dime. This copper ornament was covered with a coat of green rust, and is considerably corroded. A piece of red ochre, or paint, and a piece of iron ore, which has the appearance of having been partially vitrified, or melted, were also found. The ore is about the specifick gravity of pure iron.

"The body of the person here buried, was laid on the surface of the earth, with his face upwards and his feet pointing to the north-east, and head to the southwest. From the appearance of several pieces of charcoal, and bits of partially burnt fossil coal, and the black colour of the earth it would seem that the funeral obsequies had been celebrated by fire; and while the ashes were yet hot and smoking, a circle of thin flat stones had been laid a-

round and over the body. The circular covering is about eight feet in diameter, & the stones yet look black, as if stained by fire and smoke. This circle of stones seems to have been the nucleus on which the mound was formed, as immediately over them is heaped the common earth of the adjacent plain, composed of a clayey sand and coarse gravel. This mound must originally have been about ten feet high, and thirty feet in diameter at its base. At the time of opening it, the height was six feet, and diameter between thirty and forty. It has every appearance of being as old as any in the neighbourhood, and was, at the first settlement of Marietta, covered with large trees, the remains of whose roots were yet apparent in digging away the earth. It also seems to have been made for this single personage, as the remains of one skeleton only were discovered. The bones were much decayed, and many of them crumbled to dust on exposure to the air. From the length of some of them, it is supposed the person was about six feet in height.

"Nothing unusual was discovered in their form, except that those of the skull were uncommonly thick. The situation of the mound on high ground, near the margin of the plain, and the porous quality of the earth, are admirably calculated to preserve any perishable substance from the certain decay which would attend it in many other situations. To these circumstances, is attributed the tolerable state of preservation in which several of the articles above described were found, after laying in the earth for several centuries. We say centuries, from the fact that trees

were found growing on those ancient works, whose ages were ascertained to amount to between four and five hundred years each, by counting the concentric circles in the stumps after the trees were cut down; and on the ground besides them, were other trees in a state of decay, that appeared to have fallen from old age. Of what language, or of what nation was this mighty race, who once inhabited the territory watered by the Ohio, remains yet a mystery, too great for the most learned to unravel.

"But from what we see of their works, they must have had some acquaintance with the arts and sciences. They have left us perfect specimens of circles, squares, octagons, and parallel lines, on a grand and noble scale. And unless it can be proved that they had intercourse with Asia or Europe, we now see that they possessed the art of working in metals."

[The above described articles are in the possession of Doctor Hildreth, and can be seen by any one desirous of viewing them.]

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MOUNDS beyond the Limits of the State of Ohio.

THESE tumuli are common on the river Ohio, from its utmost sources to its mouth. Few and small, comparatively, they are found on the waters of the Monongahela; but increase in number and size, as we descend towards the mouth of that stream at Pittsburgh. Then rapidly increasing in number, they are of the largest dimensions at Grave Creek, below Wheeling. For an able and interesting account of those last mentioned, I am indebted to the Rev. Dr. Doddridge

of Brooke county Virginia. An extract from his communication follows dated,

"WELLSBURGH, VA. MAY 27, 1819.

"DEAR SIR,

"As to your inquiry concerning the ancient works at Grave Creek flat is about eleven miles below Wheeling. It is about two miles square, consisting, for the most part, of second bottom, the most ancient alluvion; about the middle of it, little Grave Creek puts into the Ohio, and Great Grave creek, at the lower end of this flat. Between these creeks stand the ancient works, at the distance of about a quarter of a mile from the Ohio.

"The 'fortifications,' as they are called, are not remarkable ones, though a number of small mounds stand among them. In one of the tumuli, which was opened about twenty years since sixty copper beads were found. Of these, I procured ten, and sent them to the Museum in Philadelphia. They were made of a coarse wire, which appeared to have been hammered out and not drawn, and were cut off at unequal lengths. They were soldered together in an awkward manner, the centre of some of them uniting with the edges of others. They were incrustated with verdigrise, but the inside of them was pure copper. This fact shows that the ancient inhabitants were not wholly unacquainted with the use of metals.

"The 'Big Grave,' as it is called, stands about half way between the two creeks, and about one fourth of a mile from the river. It is certainly one of the most august monuments of remote Antiquity any where to be found. Its circumference at the base, is three hundred yards; its diam-

ter, of course, one hundred. Its altitude, from measurment, is ninety feet. The centre, at the summit, appears to have sunk several feet,* so as to form a small kind of amphitheatre. The rim inclosing this amphitheatre, is seven or eight feet in thickness. On its south side, in its edge, stands a large beech tree, whose bark is marked with the initials of a great number of visitants.

"This lofty and venerable tumulus has been so far opened, as to ascertain that it contains many thousands of human skeletons, but no farther. The proprietor of the ground, Mr. Joseph Tomlinson, will not suffer its demolition in the smallest degree. I, for one, do him honour for his sacted regard for these works of Antiquity. I wish that the inhabitants of Chillicothe and Circleville had acted like Mr. Tomlinson. In that case, the mounds in those towns would have been left standing. They would have been religiously protected, as sacred relicks of remote and unknown Antiquities."

A careful survey of the above mentioned works, would probably show that they were all connected, and formed but parts of a whole laid out with taste.

Following the river Ohio downwards, the mounds appear on both sides, erected uniformly on the highest alluvions along that stream. Those at Marietta, Portsmouth, and Cincinnati, are noticed elsewhere. Their numbers increase all the way to the Mississippi, on which river they assume the largest size. Not

*Such a hollow place was always left in tumuli, until they were finished by bringing them to a perfect point. C. A.

having surveyed them, we shall use the description of Mr. Brackenridge, who has devoted great attention to them. With his discriminating powers of mind the publick are acquainted.

"These tumuli, as well as the fortifications, are to be found at the junction of all the rivers, along the Mississippi, in the most eligible positions for towns, and in the most extensive bodies of fertile land. Their number exceeds, perhaps, three thousand; the smallest not less than twenty feet in height, and one hundred in diameter at the base. Their great number, and the astonishing size of some of them, may be regarded as furnishing, with other circumstances, evidence of their antiquity. I have been sometimes induced to think, that, at the period when these were constructed, there was a population as numerous as that which once animated the borders of the Nile, or of the Euphrates, or of Mexico. The most numerous, as well as the most considerable of these remains, are found precisely in those parts of the country where the traces of a numerous population might be looked for, viz. from the mouth of the Ohio, on the east side of the river, to the Illinois river, and on the west side from the St. Francis to the Missouri. I am perfectly satisfied that cities, similar to those of ancient Mexico, of several hundred thousand souls, have existed in this country.

Nearly opposite St. Louis, there are traces of two such cities in the distance of five miles. They are situated on the Cahoka, which crosses the American bottom opposite St. Louis. One of the mounds is eight hundred yards in circumference at the base

(the exact size of the pyramid of Asychis) and one hundred feet in height. Mr. Brackenridge, noticed "a mound at New Madrid of three hundred and fifty feet in diameter at the base." Other large ones are at the following places, viz. at St. Louis, one with two stages, another with three; at the mouth of the Missouri; at the mouth of Cahokia river, in two groups; twenty miles below, two groups also, but the mounds of a similar size; on the bank of a lake, formerly the bed of the river, at the mouth of Marameck, St. Genevieve; one near Washington, Mississippi state, of one hundred and fortysix feet in height; at Baton Rouge, and on the bayou Manchac; one of the mounds near the lake is composed chiefly of shells. The inhabitants have taken away great quantities of them for lime.

The mounds on Black River, has two stages and a group around. At each of the above places there are groups of mounds and there was probably once a city. Mr. Brackenridge thinks that the largest city belonging to this people, was situated between the Ohio, Mississippi, Missouri, and Illinois. On the plains between the Arkansaw and St. Francis, there are several very large mounds.

Thus it will be seen, that these remains which were so few and small along the northern lakes, are more and more numerous as we travel in a southwestern direction, until we reach the Mississippi, where they are lofty and magnificent. Those works similar to the Teocalli of Mexico, by the Spaniards called "*Adoratorios*," are not found north of the mound at Circleville on the Scioto, or at least, I have seen none of them.

They are very common and lofty, it seems on the Mississippi river. An observing eye can easily mark in these works, the progress of their authors, from the lakes to the valley of the Mississippi; thence to the Gulf of Mexico, and round it, through Texas, into New Mexico, and into South America; their increased numbers, as they proceeded, are evident; while the articles found in and near these works, show also the progressive improvement of the arts among those who erected them.

Should the patronage on this work, enable me to pursue my investigations, it is my intention to extend my survey quite down to the Mexican Gulf, and possibly beyond it; and if, through a want of patronage, a period should be put to my labours, yet, it is hoped, that others may be able to complete what, under untoward circumstances, I have begun.

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Miscellaneous Remarks on the Uses of the Mounds.

THOUGH they were used as places of sepulture and of worship, yet, Were they not sometimes, in the last resort, used also as places of defence? Solis, who describes the destruction of the Mexicans, and the conquest of their empire by the Spaniards, informs us that the "*Teocalli*," which were like many of our works, in cases of extreme necessity, appeared like "living hills;"* they were covered with warriors. Standing upon their alters and in their temples; upon the tombs of their fathers; defending themselves, their wives, their children, their aged parents,

* Brackenridge.

their country, and their gods, they fought with desperation. These mounds being elevated on high grounds, in situations easily defended, is it not highly probable, that their authors, in cases of the last resort, used them as places of defence?

Some have expressed an opinion, that those which are situated within enclosures, were used as altars, where on human victims were sacrificed.

Some, who have devoted great attention to our Antiquities, believe that the tumuli in front of the gateways of not a few of the works described, were placed there for idols, similar to the "Janitor gods" of Rome, to stand on. This proposition, which has some plausibility in it, we can neither assent to, nor deny, for want of sufficient data.

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Mrs. Scott's Captivity, and her escape from the Indians.

The following narrative was taken from the mouth of the sufferer by the Rev. J. Kobler, who preached her funeral sermon on the 9th of May 1796.

"Her maiden name was Dickenson. She was married to a Mr. Scott, and lived in Powell's Valley, in Virginia. At this time the Indians were very troublesome, often killing and plundering the inhabitants. On a certain evening her husband and children being in bed, eight or nine Indians rushed into the house. Mr. Scott, being alarmed, started up, when all that had guns fired at him. Although he was badly wounded, he broke through them all and got out of the house. Several of them pursued him, and put an end to his life. They then murdered and scalped all her children before her eyes, plundered her

house, and took her prisoner. The remainder of the night they spent around a fire in the woods, drinking, shouting and dancing. The next day they divided the plunder with great equality. Among the rest of the goods was a hymn book; she asked them for it; they gave it to her, but when they saw her often reading in it, they were displeased, called her a conjurer and took it from her. After this they travelled several days journey towards the Indian towns, but said she, my grief was so great I could hardly believe my situation was a reality but thought I dreamed. To aggravate one of the Indians hung my husband and my children's scalps to his back, and would walk the next before me. In walking up and down the mountains I was worn out with fatigue and sorrow. They would often laugh when they saw me almost spent, and mimic my panting for breath. There was one Indian who was more humane than the rest. He would get me water, and make the others stop when I wanted rest. They carried me on eleven days journey, until they were all greatly distressed with hunger. They then committed me to the care of an old Indian at the camp while they went off a hunting.

While the old man was busily employed in dressing a deer skin I walked backward and forward through the woods until I observed he took no notice of me. I then slipped off, ran a considerable distance, and came to a cane brake, where I hid myself very securely. Through most of the night I heard the Indians searching for me, and answering each other with that of an owl. Thus was I alone in the savage wilderness far from any civilized inhabi-

tants, without a morsel of food, or any friend to help, but the common Saviour and friend of all. To Him I poured out my complaint in fervent prayer that he would not forsake me in this distressing circumstance. I then set out the course I thought Kentucky lay, though with very little expectation of seeing a human face again except that of the savages whom I looked upon as so many fiends from the bottomless pit; and my greatest dread was that I should meet some of them while wandering in the wilderness.

One day as I was travelling, I heard a loud human voice, and a prodigious noise, like horses running. I ran into a safe place and hid myself, and saw a company of Indians pass by, furiously driving a gang of horses which they had stolen from the white people. I had nothing to subsist upon but roots, young grape vines, sweet cane, and such like produce of the woods I accidentally came where a bear was feeding on a deer and drew near in hopes of getting some; but the bear growled and looked angry, so I left him, & passed quickly on. At night when I lay down to rest, I never slept but I dreamed of eating. In the course of my travels I came to a large shelving rock, under which was a fine bed of leaves I crept in among them, and determined there to end my days of sorrow. I lay there several hours until my bones ached in so distressing a manner that I was obliged to stir out again. I then thought of and wished for home; and travelled on several days until I came where Cumberland river breaks through the mountain. I went down the cliff a considerable distance, until I was affrighted, & made an attempt to go back, but

found the place I had gone down was so steep that I could not return. I saw but one way which I could go on, and that was a considerable perpendicular distance down to the bank of the river, I took hold of the top of a little bush, and let myself down by it until it broke, and I went with great violence down on the bottom. This was early in the morning, and I lay there a considerable time with the intention of going no further. About ten o'clock I grew so thirsty, that I concluded to crawl to the water and drink, after which I found I could walk. I was four days in getting through the mountain, and the distance as I have since been informed, is only two miles.

I travelled on until I came to a little path, one end of which led to the wilderness, and the other to the settlement. After standing and praying for direction, I turned to take the end which led to the wilderness. Immediately there came a little bird, of a dove color, near to my feet, and fluttered along the path that led to the inhabitants. I did not observe this at first, until it done so a second or third time I then understood it as a direction of Providence, and took the path which led me to the inhabitants; where the sympathy and kindness of my fellows, and the hope of the gospel, restored strength to my exhausted body, and brought the calm of peace to my agitated mind.

CONJECTURES, respecting the ORIGIN and HISTORY of the AUTHORS of the ANCIENT WORKS in OHIO,

THE reader, after having become acquainted with many of our ancient works, naturally

inquires, Who were their authors? Whence did they emigrate? At what time did they arrive? How long did they continue to inhabit this country? To what place did they emigrate? and, Where shall we look for their decedents?

These questions have often been asked, within the last thirty years, and as often answered, but not satisfactorily, especially to those who, on all occasions, require proofs amounting to mathematical certainty. Persons of this class, need not give themselves the useless labour of perusing the remaining part of this memoir. The nature of the subject does not admit of such proof, nor will the liberal and more enlightened portion of my readers require it at my hands. But if absolute certainty be not attainable, it appears to me that a reasonable one is—by obtaining a thorough knowledge of the geology and botany of the country where these works are found; by a careful examination of the skeletons of the people themselves; their dress; their ornaments, such as beads, bracelets, badges of office; their places of amusement, burial and worship; their buildings, and the materials used in their structure; their wells; domestick utensils; weapons of offence and defence; their medals and monuments, intended to perpetuate the memory of important events in their history; their idols; their modes of burial, and of worship; their fortifications, and the form, size, situation, and materials with which they were constructed. These are fragments of history, as Bacon would say, which have been saved from the deluge of time. Let us examine these fragments; let us also compare whatever belonged to this people in common

with any other, either now or heretofore inhabiting this or any other part of our globe.

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Who then were the Authors of our Ancient Works?

If we look into the Bible, the most authentick, the most ancient history of man, we shall there learn that mankind, soon after the deluge, undertook to raise a tower high as heaven, which should serve to keep them together, as a place of worship, and stand to future ages as a monument of their industry, their religious zeal their enterprize, their knowledge of the arts. Unacquainted, as they undoubtedly were of the use of letters, in what better way could their names have been handed down to their posterity? But in this attempt they were disappointed, and themselves dispersed through the wide world. Did they forget to raise afterwards, similar monuments and places of worship? They did not; and, to use the words of an inspired penman, "high places," of various altitudes and dimensions, were raised "on every high hill, and under every green tree," throughout the land of palestine, and all the east.

Some of these "high places" belonged to single families, some to a mighty chieftain, a petty tribe, a city, or a whole nation. Some were places of worship for the individual, the tribe, the village, the town the city, or the nation, to which they respectively belonged.

At those "high places," belonging to great nations, great national affairs were transacted. Here they crowned and deposed their kings; here they concluded peace and declared war, Here the na-